



**Institutional Independence in an Inter-regional Perspective:
A Multidisciplinary and Comparative Workshop**

organised by the Max Weber Programme
in cooperation with the Global Governance Programme, RSCAS
European University Institute
Villa La Fonte, 6 April 2011

The workshop will examine the issue of institutional independence, as it arises in many contexts where isolating actors from short run pressures provides them with an opportunity to develop focus and expertise. Affording such independence can demonstrate credible commitment to a particular course of action and anchor expectations of other actors. At the same time, however, affording independence raises difficult questions related to institutional transparency and accountability, particularly in democratic systems of government.

The independence of courts and judges is seen as a guarantee of the rule of law, but also a source of concern about the legitimacy of judicial decision-making. In a regional grouping, such as the EU, a supra-national institution might be delegated regulatory authority by the member states, but such an institution is at least twice removed from any democratic check on the exercise of delegated powers. Moreover, efficacy and accountability are not completely separable dimensions. An independent actor might be guided by professionalism and impartial judgment, but an unaccountable actor might also become too dependent on its own clientele making the independent institution blind to systemic problems and potentially emergent solutions in their field. These and other issues will be explored both through a theoretical lens as well as examination of case studies.

Keynote address:

Professor Giandomenico Majone

Speakers:

Fabrizio Gilardi – Department of Political Science, Centre for International and Comparative Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Ramon Marimon – Max Weber Programme and Department of Economics, EUI

Allan Tatham – Department of European and Public International Law, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest

Mario Telo – Institut d'Etudes européennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Organisers: Yane Svetiev, Giuseppe Martinico, Aneta Katarzyna Jurska-Gawrysiak



Programme

9.30 Coffee and registration

9.45 Welcome: Ramon Marimon
“Institutional independence in academic research and macroeconomic policy: the European Research Council and the European Stability Mechanism”

Session I Chair: Yane Svetiev

10.00 Giandomenico Majone
Keynote: “Nonmajoritarian Institutions: The Importance of Embeddedness”

10.30 Fabrizio Gilardi
“Consequences of Institutional Independence”

11.00 Comments and discussion

11.30 Break

Session II Chair: Alexandre Afonso

11.45 Mario Telo
“Institutionalisation in regional integration and cooperation settings”

12.15 Allan Tatham
“*Van Gend en Loos*: typically tropical? The relative impact of the European Court of Justice in African and Caribbean regional integration”

12.45 Comments and discussion

13.15 Lunch for participants, Villa La Fonte